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No. of Pages Transmitted Cover Sheet + 95 Date: February 28, 2005

TO: Name: Examiner Ellen E. KimCompany or Firm: U. S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICECity/State/Country: Alexandria, VATelecopier No.: (571) 273-2349FROM: Kenneth H. Samples, Esq.Dispatched by: Susan K.

MESSAGE:

OUR FILE NO.: 72499/6700Ser. No. 09/997,128

Attached per your request are copies of foreign references submitted with IDS on 3/19/02 and a copy of the International Search Report issued in the parent application PCT/JP00/03561 where the references were first cited.

The documents accompanying this facsimile transmittal cover sheet contain information from the law firm of Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery which may be confidential and/or legally privileged. The documents are intended only for the personal and confidential use of the addressee identified above. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent responsible for delivering these documents to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this transmitted information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please immediately notify the Firm so that we can arrange for the return of the original documents to us. Thank you.

(XX) PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THIS COMMUNICATION

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP00/03561

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.Cl⁷ G02B6/36

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ G02B6/36, G02B6/38

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1922-1996	Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1994-2000
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1971-2000	Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho	1996-2000

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP, 819960, A2 (SEIKO INSTRUMENTS INC.), 21 January, 1998 (21.01.98), Full text; Figs. 1 to 24 & CN, 1175002, A & JP, 11-2744, A	1-26
A	EP, 862072, A2 (SEIKO INSTRUMENTS INC.), 02 September, 1998 (02.09.98), Full text; Figs. 1 to 8 & CN, 1195784, A & JP, 10-300983, A	1-26
Y	JP, 10-319273, A (Nippon Steel Weld Prod. & Eng. Co., Ltd.), 04 December, 1998 (04.12.98), Full text; Figs. 1 to 14 (Family: none)	1,6-10
Y	JP, 5-323149, A (Nippon Steel Weld Prod. & Eng. Co., Ltd.), 07 December, 1993 (07.12.93), Full text; Figs. 1 to 10 (Family: none)	1,6-10
Y	JP, 63-256909, A (Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.), 24 October, 1988 (24.10.88), Full text; Figs. 1 to 3 (Family: none)	1,6-10

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

Z document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
23 August, 2000 (23.08.00)Date of mailing of the international search report
12 September, 2000 (12.09.00)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

**PATENT APPLICATION
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 72499**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Shinichi Iwano et al.

Appln No.: 09/997,128

Filed: November 29, 2001

For: **OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG,
MANUFACTURING METHOD
THEREOF AND ASSEMBLING
TOOL**

Group Art

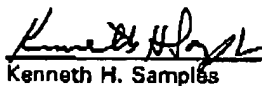
Unit: 2874

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this date.

3/19/02
Date 
Kenneth H. Samples
Registration No. 25,747
Attorney for Applicant(s)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement, PTO/SB/08A Substitute for Form PTO-1499, and copies of references cited thereon.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Translation</u>
JP10-319273 A	December 04, 1998	Abstract
JP 05-323149 A	December 07, 1993	Abstract
JP 03-092803 A	April 18, 1991	Abstract
JP 63-256909 A	October 24, 1988	Abstract
EP 0 819960 A2	January 21, 1998	Yes
EP 0 862072 A2	February 09, 1998	Yes